



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

Testimony by Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra
House Bill 6308
An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership
February 14, 2011, 11:00AM in Hearing Room 2C

Chairmen Crisco, Megna, Musto, Tercyak, Stillman and Ritter; Ranking Members; Distinguished Vice-Chairs and Members of the Insurance & Real Estate, Human Services and Public Health Committees:

It is a pleasure to appear before you today, and it is an even greater honor to be testifying in support of House Bill 6308, *AAE the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership*.

This bill, which mirrors an initiative that House Speaker Christopher Donovan has proposed and supported for several sessions, would grant cities and towns a much-needed opportunity to reduce one of the biggest cost drivers in municipal budgets: health care. In Hartford alone the overall cost is approaching 20% of our annual budget, and we are all well aware that this issue is one that every municipality is presently facing.

The City of Hartford has often sought ways to improve its internal operations and its business relationship with the State of Connecticut and this legislation represents a perfect opportunity to accomplish both goals, of which there is no greater example than the partnership that we have developed with the Office of the State Comptroller to establish an "on-site" medical facility at Hartford City Hall for use by both State and City employees and their families.

This legislation would enable Hartford, and other municipalities, to purchase employee health insurance through the large state employee pool. Under this proposal, Hartford would be able to take advantage of the bargaining power and low administrative costs of the 200,000-member state plan.

The City is already looking at joining the state's prescription pool under PA 10-131. It is estimated that the prescription plan could save Hartford \$1.8 million dollars each year. Adding Hartford's purchasing power to the state's prescription pool would save the state an additional \$6 million per year. This program is a win for both municipalities and the state.

While I and other municipal leaders are mindful – and respectful – of the fact that HB 6308 would require modifications to collective bargaining agreements, the City remains hopeful that it will be able to take advantage of this fiscal saving opportunity, while guaranteeing that the level of service for our valued municipal employees expect would not be diminished.

I look forward to continuing to work with the legislative leaders, your committees and other stakeholders as we continue to seek out effective cost-saving measures and improve the delivery of health care in Hartford and throughout the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of H.B. 6308. I urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

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